

Jennie's Enlightenment

By GEORGE HASKELL

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"I guess this town ain't big enough for you!" sniffed Mrs. Tucker.

"How long since has it been a 'town'?" laughed Jennie Ames, a slip of a girl with blue eyes that always seemed to be surprised or wondering, and fluffy yellow hair that was always blowing about her face.

"Well, it's bigger now than some towns, if it ain't anything but a village," retorted the woman. "My I wouldn't go down there to New York, not knowin' anybody fer the hull world!"

"I shall know Miss Kraft," protested Jennie.

"Well, New York is an awful place for young girls, an' I hope—"

Mrs. Tucker had a way of pausing before a momentous climax. Jennie again supplied it.

"You hope I won't go wrong," snapped the girl. "Well, I guess I know enough not to get out of the straight and narrow path. I've never had anything all my life but narrow paths, and I ought to know one when I see it."

An audible masculine chuckle just inside the door of the store where they were standing made Jennie quickly take leave of Mrs. Tucker, enter, and pass rapidly to the further end. She saw it was Joe Burrows who had laughed, but she did not let him know she saw him. Joe was the son of the proprietor, Seth Burrows, a skinny, shriveled, money-making machine who kept his sole heir very carefully in line with his object in life. Joe worked the farm part of the time, and helped in the general supply store at intervals. Before Joe's mother died she had stood by her son in his desire for an education, and so, much against the old man's parsimonious ideas, Joe had been allowed to go through the high school in the neighboring town. His taste for good reading was cultivated in his spare hours, and Jennie



Began a Discouraging Search for Work.

being somewhat like him in that respect, a mutual attraction had grown up between them. Then came Miss Kraft to visit the Stevensons, who lived in the most pretentious house in the place. She was a settlement worker in New York, and having accidentally met Jennie, she became interested in her; and when the girl told her of the necessity for finding work, and her desire to go to New York to try to earn something, Miss Kraft promised to see what she could do.

Joe had very little sympathy with Jennie's desire for New York. She was perhaps foolishly reticent regarding the real reason, not explaining as she had to Miss Kraft. She thought he did not care. He did not ask her to stay. And Joe believed she wished to get away from the little village, himself included, to find in the great city the chance for excitement and the kind of life he loathed. So it was a misunderstanding all around. He did not know that one word from him would have kept her there, even though she had scrubbed floors for a living, and perhaps he had not yet thought of speaking that word.

So with the bitter memory of his indifference rankling in her heart, Jennie went down to the great city. The place Miss Kraft had found for her was that of a saleswoman in a cheap department store downtown. The pay was so small that though she shared a small, comfortable room with another girl, prepared her slender breakfast over a gas jet, and ate a ten-cent lunch, there was very little left at the end of the week. Out of this meager amount she sent something to her mother with reassuring words of a raise in her salary. At first it seemed to Jennie she would not be able to stand the privation and hard work; but pride and a determination to hold on kept her at it.

Miss Kraft conducted a club for working girls on the East side, and

she asked Jennie to join. The members were mostly of foreign parentage, and included Russian Jews, Poles, Roumanians, Germans, Scandinavians and Italians. At first Jennie, all unused to their manner and mode of expression, unwittingly held herself aloof. But she found them so bright, so responsive, and with such an eager desire to learn, that soon all barriers were leveled by the spirit of camaraderie in the quest of a common cause.

In June the club discontinued for the summer. Miss Kraft informed the girls she was going to be married in two weeks, and would not be back till September. The firm that employed Jennie failed in August and closed its doors. Then began a discouraging search for work. When day after day of the weary tramp of the hot streets resulted in nothing, and Jennie beheld her small store of money nearing the vanishing point, the only alternative of going home loomed up before her. As a last resort she went to the exchanges where women's work is sold, but it needed money to buy materials, so she took the train for home.

Her mother, glad beyond expression to see her, could not, however, conceal the fact that finances were at a very low ebb. But Jennie, in the club and her tour of the exchanges, had learned a few things which she meant to put to practical use. There was still some fruit on the place, the plums were looking well, and wild blackberries in plenty were to be had for the picking. Jennie had arranged with two of the exchanges to try her jellies and jams, and while she did not know much about making them, she knew her mother did, and she could learn, so she set to work. The first consignment sold a bit slowly, but there was an encouraging call for more.

The next unheard-of thing she attempted was the forming of a girls' club for mutual improvement and social enjoyment. She had obtained permission to use the schoolroom for the first meeting. Either through a misunderstanding, or overmastering curiosity, or sheer devilry, several of the girls' brothers and sweethearts drifted in, and sat together in the back seats. The girls were up in front, curious and expectant. Jennie beheld the male contingency with just a touch of dismay. She also discovered Joe Banks among them.

"I believe," she said, "we can get together for study and social evenings, and have some very good times. In a small place like this, although we are thrown together a good deal, we never really know each other very well. It is not knowing each other that makes the miserable, foolish gossip, makes us say and do unkind things we never would if we knew. Where I've been I've seen what it did for the girls. Oh, you don't know how wonderful it was to me to see how the unselfishness, the kindness seemed to wipe out criticism and spiteful words among those girls, just from getting together and knowing each other in the right way."

The young men, who had come to have some fun, looked at the floor, or up at the lights, but remained quiet. Jennie went on to explain the business of forming the club, and added: "We had not thought of having gentleman members, but it may be a great advantage to have them." Here audible snickers came from the back of the room. They subsided when Joe Banks rose to his six feet of height and said:

"I think it would be greatly to our advantage if the boys were allowed to join, and I hope the ladies will amend their constitution."

Jennie promised that this would be considered at the next meeting. But it was all in such a formal, impersonal manner that Joe wondered if she had forgotten his existence. After the meeting he hung around to speak to her. He wondered how it was the great city had not spoiled her, but instead had opened into bloom a nature quite wonderful to him. In a stammering, ineffective way he tried to tell her this, but she stopped him with some businesslike questions relative to the preparation of the ground for spring planting. She meant to have a garden, and especially wanted to start small fruits. He asked her if he might come and give her any helpful service he could. She assented in a dignified manner more befitting the new president of "The Helpers" than the little Jennie Ames he used to know.

It was surprising the number of new facts that sprang up regarding the culture of small fruits, which made it necessary for Joe to call at the Ames cottage. The jellies and jams were selling well, and Jennie was much absorbed and happy in her work.

One day when the autumn began to turn the greenery into gold and scarlet, Jennie asked Joe where she could find bittersweet. She remembered where there was some, but she wanted a great deal. She knew of an exchange that would take all she could send. Of course Joe knew, or at least he was pretty sure, and he arranged to show her.

Promptly to the minute a car drove up to the door. Jennie was somewhat surprised, but he assured her it was too far to walk.

It was a wonderful ride through the beautiful country roads, and Joe, not being entirely sure as to the location, they had to go a long way, but they found it at last.

"Bittersweet!" said Joe, holding up one of the flaming sprays, as they gathered them away from the road. "It's like my being with you. It might be just sweet to me if the bitter wasn't there—if I could think you—"

He did not finish. The look in her eyes made him take her in his arms.

A PLEA FOR AID.

Friday and Saturday of this week the young ladies will be at the following places to receive contributions to supply the materials for bandages for our soldiers and sailors being made here under the direction of the Red Cross Section of the Navy League:

Elks Club.
Anderson Fowler Drug Co.
Frankels' Busy Store.
F. W. Woolworth Store.
J. H. Anderson & Co.
Jas. O. Cook.
E. H. Higgins.
Lawson Faxon.
L. L. Elgin.
Princess Theatre.
L. A. Johnson & Co.
Pennyroyal Apartment.
First National Bank.
Planters Bank.
City Bank.
Bank of Hopkinsville.

MONEY WANTED.

The Finance Committee of the Navy League earnestly solicits contributions to buy wool from which to knit sweaters, mufflers and wristlets for our soldiers and sailors. Each set will cost \$2. These comforts are not supplied by the government. Contributions may be sent to Miss Mary Bronaugh or Mrs. Monroe Bullard. Make them as large as possible. Our soldiers and sailors are liable to be sent to rigorous climates in any part of the world and these preparations should be made now.

NAVY LEAGUE.

CLAIM NOTICE.

All parties holding claims against the estate of Anna Price, (col.) deceased, will present them to me, properly proven, on or before June 1, 1917, or they will be forever barred.

J. W. F. WILLIAMS,
Administrator,
Lafayette, Ky.

French-Martin.

Claude French, of Burgettstown, Pa., and Miss Naomi Martin, of Crofton, were married at the courthouse Tuesday morning by Judge Knight. The groom is a young carpenter and the bride is an unusually pretty girl. They will go to Burgettstown, where the groom is employed.

Buck-Hayes.

Mr. Leon S. Buck and Miss Edna May Hayes were married at the Methodist parsonage at 8 o'clock Monday night by Rev. Lewis Powell. They were accompanied by Miss Eva D. Ricketts and Mr. Scott Means. They left for Nashville to make their home.

Came on Foot.

Fred C. Walker, aged 22, and Wm. Kennedy, aged 21, arrived here Tuesday from Weaver's store, in Stewart county, Tenn., 25 miles from Hopkinsville, having come on foot to enlist in Co. D. They were among the dozen or more enlisted by Lieut. Alvan Clark this week.

109 Eggs In 111 Days.

Lady Walnut Hill did not lay Thursday, her second cycle having stopped with the fifteenth egg the day previous. Friday morning she began a new deal, laying at 6:15 o'clock. Her first cycle was 94 eggs without a skip.

Date Postponed.

Due to flood of applications, the date of the opening of the training camps for the officers' reserve corps has been postponed for one week. Those who have been accepted will be notified May 8.

Strayed.

From my farm on the Lafayette road, three weanling mules. Reward for information leading to recovery. Phone 304-1. E. C. CAYCE.

Stars and Stripes.

There will be a flag raising at the High School this afternoon at one o'clock. Everybody is invited to attend.

ANNUAL WOOL SALE.

The annual wool sale of the Church Hill and Wheatland Granges will be held in this city, at one of the loose floor houses, on May 12th.

FIFE REVIVAL.

Personal Work Is Cry of Evangelist Fife at Tabernacle Meetings.

Judging from the record-breaking crowds that are attending the Tabernacle services, Hopkinsville has begun to wake up in a religious way, as it has never done before.

Tuesday morning a great men's meeting was held at the court house and a great message was delivered by the Evangelist. Yesterday morning the men's meeting was held at Keaches Furniture Store, with an earnest appeal for personal work. The Evangelist said he was doing all in his power to win souls for Christ but if the people of Hopkinsville did not bring the unsaved ones to the meetings he could have no means of reaching them, and turning them to God.

Tuesday night the text of the sermon was the "Unpardonable Sin," and Rev. Mr. Fife preached a powerful sermon, pleading that though man was sinful in every way, he should not commit the unpardonable sin of denying the Holy Spirit of God. A great crowd was present, and the singing was up to its usual high standard. The colored people sang several highly religious selections, which made a deep impression on the congregation.

Last night at the Methodist church there was a young people's banquet at 6 o'clock after which there was an earnest program for the betterment of Christ's Kingdom among the young people of Hopkinsville.

Plan Finds Approval.

Heartily indorsed by the Kentucky agricultural department is the "Christian County Plan," adopted by the Hopkinsville Business Men's association and the Christian County Crop Improvement association, looking to the systematic alignment of the citizens to bring about the biggest possible production of food crops this summer.

The plan depends upon an executive committee of twelve men in the county, eight men in the city, who will divide the county of Christian into twenty-four districts, and the city of Hopkinsville into eight districts, and a sub-committee of five men in each district who shall co-operate aggressively in a campaign to thoroughly organize the districts to encourage each able-bodied man or woman in growing the greatest possible quantity of crops of corn, beans, potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, peas, cabbage and all articles entering into the food supply; to dry or can an abundant supply for family use, and to produce a surplus to sell on the open market; to influence land owners to permit their tenants and croppers to have all the land they can cultivate, to assist in producing plots of land or vacant lots for those who desire to cultivate a crop, and in every way encourage said crops.

The executive committee is to aid in establishing credit for those unable to buy seed, and to arrange so that when desired the purchaser may pay for seed in products of like kind when gathered; to encourage the producing and conserving of cattle, hogs, poultry, etc., to maturity so as to furnish the maximum products; to preserve and sun-dry all apples, peaches, etc., allowing no waste of possible articles of food. To encourage and to aid the canning clubs in financing and purchasing of cans and jars, and assist in marketing the products.—Farmers Home Journal.

Reserve Corps Blanks.

Cashier Ed L. Weathers, of the First National Bank, has on hand a supply of the application blanks for applicants as officers in the Officers Reserve Corps, sent him by William Marshall Bullitt, of Louisville. Several Hopkinsville young men have already taken these examinations. Lieut. Riley B. Butler has gone to Louisville this week. He was mustered out of Company D last year on account of under-weight and is anxious to get back in the service.

Almost Dry.

During discussion of the prohibition amendment to the Selective Service Bill in the Senate Saturday, the members voted themselves dry but reversed their action later and adopted an amendment prohibiting soldiers from purchasing liquor.

50 BARRELS of Corn for Sale. W. S. Pierce, Hopkinsville, Ky. R. 4. Phone 286-1.



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